

## COMMENDABLE ECONOMY.

## A Letter to President Cleveland, Containing Practical Suggestions.

MR. PRESIDENT:—Your message to the congress of the United States has, through the medium of my weekly newspaper, just come to my hands. I have spent all Sunday in a careful study of this great state paper. Its thorough-going advocacy of economy in many of its sections should certainly call for the approval of all men who are patriotic enough to prefer the welfare of the country to the mere personal advantage of drawing a fat salary.

I have been particularly struck with the great savings already made, and the greater ones yet contemplated in the agricultural department. In this department 580 persons were discharged at a saving of \$56,135.66. It is true the persons so discharged must have belonged to the least salaried officials in that department, as from the figures given their average pay only came to \$96.78 per quarter or \$32.26 per month. It is further true that these men through their discharge were added to that great body we hear so much about nowadays—the 3,000,000 of the unemployed, but the condition of these individuals may not be properly a consideration when reasons of economy require a reduction of national expenses.

Economy being the keynote of the present situation and the watchword of triumphant democracy, I hope to be excused if I take the liberty of suggesting a source of saving, an application of the economy principle, which, in the great effort of getting out this message must have escaped your observation or memory.

I would say that, for instance, without injustice to anyone, the salary of the president might be cut from \$50,000 to \$10,000 per annum. The responsibility of the president of the United States to-day is no greater than it was during the great civil struggle in the '60's. Yet the man at the helm of the ship of state of that time, the great and immortal Lincoln, was satisfied with a salary of \$25,000 of depreciated paper money, of which it took at one time, in 1864, as many as \$285 to make up the value of \$100 in gold; in other words, his salary reduced to the present gold basis, fell to a rate as low as \$8,771.93 (figures from Spofford's American Almanac) per year. And this at a time when money fell far short of its present purchasing power; when the bread upon the presidential table was made from wheat costing as much as \$2.75 (figures from Spofford's American Almanac) per bushel against 70 cents per bushel to-day; when the corn fed to the presidential carriage horses cost up to \$1.97 per bushel against 45 cents per bushel to-day; when the messpork in the White house cellar took out of his salary as much as \$43.25 per barrel against \$15 to-day; when the wool in his coat cost as high as \$1.10 per pound against 25 cents and less to-day; and the cotton in the presidential shirt figured up to \$1.95 per pound against 10 cents per pound to-day.

The saving in this one item alone would amount to \$40,000, equivalent to the entire salaries of 100 agricultural department employees, and not one man thrown upon the already overcrowded labor market.

"At this time, when a depleted public treasury confronts us, when many of our people are engaged in a hard struggle for the necessities of life and when forced economy is pressing upon the great masses of our countrymen, I desire to urge with all the earnestness at my command that congressional legislation be

so limited by strict economy as to exhibit an appreciation of the conditions of the treasury and a sympathy with the straightened circumstances of our fellow citizens." With these too true words of your message still ringing in my ears I should like to see a further suggestion from you to congress recommending a general cut in the present salaries of the higher officials. A reduction in the salaries of senators and congressmen to \$2,000 per year would still leave them better off than were their predecessors at the period heretofore alluded to in the '60's. This would result in a saving of \$1,332,000 and not one man thrown into competition with men at present unemployed. This, together with a comparative reduction of the salaries of admirals, ambassadors, cabinet members, generals, etc., would aggregate savings of many millions, without the discharge of a single official, without in any manner whatever decreasing the efficiency of the operations of the departments of the government and would furnish a test proving true patriotism rather than the seeking and holding of offices for mere financial gains.

I think all patriotic citizens would endorse such economy. JOHN GRAY.  
Osage City, Kas.

## ABOUT KANSAS.

The County Clerks' association held its annual state meeting in Wichita last week.

The new draw bridge across the Missouri river at Leavenworth was dedicated yesterday.

A. C. McCarthy of Paola has been appointed by the governor probate judge of Miami county.

The Hutchinson Gazette has opened a free reading room for the benefit of the public. Populists love lightness rather than dark.

It seems to be the intention of Mrs. Lease to get all the notoriety possible to be had out of this little episode of her removal from office.

Labor Commissioner Todd got out of the trouble with his running mate, Editor House, by paying a fine of \$20 and costs, and is again walking around with his cane.

The meeting of the Teachers', Sheriffs' and County Attorney associations, and a big sensation over the removal of Mrs. Lease is about all Topeka can stand in one week.

A large meeting was held in representative hall Friday evening, to devise ways and means of caring for the poor of the city. The governor's "tramp circular" was not discussed.

Rev. D. C. Milner, so well known in Kansas as a prohibition agitator, is to take charge of Armour Mission in Chicago. This will be glad news to many republican politicians.

According to the daily papers, Pension Agent Glick is industriously giving interviews in which he conveys the information that the democrats will hold an early state convention and nominate a ticket.

R. H. Semple is appointed to take care of a clerkship in the bank commissioner's office. This is a position of a great deal of hard work and some responsibility, and the bank commissioner has made a good selection.

The State Teachers' association is on the right track. They seem to think that a thorough understanding of the effects of alcohol on the human system would be more effectual than passing laws to prevent ignorant people from drinking.

Says the Olathe Alliance Echo: "Judg-

ing from last week's Olathe Mirror (rep). Assistant Secretary of State Zercher does not stand in with that paper. This speaks well for Mr. Zercher. In fact it is the strongest endorsement he could wish in Johnson county."

Governor Lewelling recommends to the different boards of police commissioners that they give employment to the heads of families in preference to single men, whenever it is necessary to make changes in their respective forces. This is in order that as many people as possible get the benefit of their wages.

The Interstate Literary association, which met in Lawrence last week, is composed of representative colored people of Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri. W. O. Recke's of the Nebraska legislature is president, but the most active members are G. G. Brown of Atchison, R. H. Wade of Topeka and L. A. Harvey of Lawrence.

Republican papers always take pains to speak of R. M. Chenault of Ft. Scott as a prominent Populist and a probable candidate for congress in the Second district. Chenault has a right to call himself a Populist, and he may be a standing candidate for congressman or president, but no one who knows him will deny that he is a "prominent" nuisance in any capacity. His chief ambition is to get himself talked about.

## NOTES AND COMMENT.

Prendergast, the assassin of Mayor Harrison of Chicago, was convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged. The trial lasted about two weeks.

In Pittsburg, Pa., over 2,000 men have recently been put to work on streets and city parks, the money to pay them being raised by subscription. Only for this move these men would be unemployed.

The employees of the Chicago bakeries are on a strike for wages, while several thousand other people of that city are on a strike for bread. The bakers should consider the fact that bread is slow sale when people are hard up.

Hugh J. Grant, ex-mayor of New York, who was once known as a very corrupt politician, has been appointed receiver of the St. Nicholas bank. Let the people repose their trust and confidence in the courts, if they don't care what becomes of the country.

The New York & New England railroad went into the hands of receivers on December 27. The indebtedness of the company, which owns about 360 miles of road, is about \$16,000,000 in bonds and mortgages, and about \$850,000 floating. The capital stock is \$20,000,000.

Having been upbraided by a constituent for using the word "Hell" in a profane manner, Governor Waite, of Colorado, replied: "The word 'Hell' is not necessarily profanity. Christ himself was so outraged by the usurers and extortioners of his day, who don't deserve to be mentioned for iniquity and blasphemy of all that is holy with that class in these days, that even He, the most gentle and meek of all creation, was provoked to say to them: 'O, ye generation of serpents. How can ye escape the damnation of hell.'"

The Londoners do not approve of the management and book keeping of American railroad companies. The Economist, the leading finance journal of London, says our railroad managers make balance sheets calculated to keep the shareholders in the dark, and adds: "We are loth to make such a charge against American officials; yet we are compelled to believe it or else the whole system of finance adopted is en-

tirely rotten. No wonder investors on this side are disgusted with such chicanery. They need to enjoy an absolute superfluity of faith to believe any longer in the honesty of most of the American railway managers."

A member of the ways and means committee has outlined a program for the promotion of the new tariff bill. It is the present intention to allow the debate to run on for some time and if it then becomes apparent no vote can be reached or that the bill can not be seasonably considered by paragraphs, the committee on rules will be asked to fix a time for consideration under the five-minute rule and a final vote. It is believed by the democratic members that when there is a general understanding that no final vote is to be taken until the last of January there will be no difficulty in securing such vote by an agreement on both sides.

## The Woman's Progressive Political League.

At the last meeting, December 27, of the league. The following resolution was, after discussion, adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, A woman's suffrage amendment is to be submitted to the voters at the next general election; and

WHEREAS, The republican and Populist parties both recommended its submission in their last year's platforms; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Woman's Progressive Political league, of Topeka, confidently expect and request that the People's party include in their state platform an unequivocal declaration in favor of the amendment.

It was also decided that in view of the amendment being the most important issue for the coming year that the league would concentrate its energies upon this object.

A committee was appointed to see that woman's suffrage papers be placed in the Topeka public library.

Arrangements were made for a public meeting at the next regular meeting club on January 10. All women in the city who are interested in the suffrage question are earnestly invited to be present.

The Iowa Loan Company, of Topeka, offers special inducements for investment. A positively guaranteed earning of over 21 per cent. per annum. Capital stock \$2,000,000. Cost of one \$500 share \$5; monthly payment \$2; guaranteed result \$500. A saving of less than 14 cents per day will secure \$1,000. The average time of the total amount invested is but five years. Write for prospectus and by-laws. Byron Roberts, president and treasurer; A. B. Quinton, vice president and attorney; F. M. Kimball, secretary.

The WESTERN TRAIL is published quarterly by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railway. It tells how to get a farm in the west, and it will be sent to you gratis for one year. Send name and address to "Editor Western Trail, Chicago," and receive it one year free. JOHN SEBASTIAN, G. P. A.

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